



# Johannes Wier Stichting

## Unwanted Patients? Doctors should speak up!

Undocumented migrants (Ums) are refused in Dutch health care system as soon as their budget is too small to afford health care, although Dutch government policy is compensating general practitioners for financial losses and reimburses hospitals if financial losses occur.

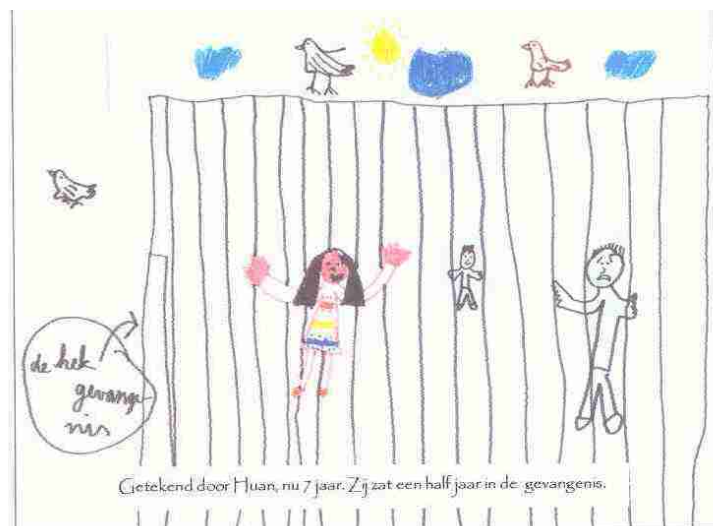
In this paper an overview will be presented regarding recent and coming changes regarding policy to Ums both from a perspective of the national government as well as from the perspective of professional bodies. Although Dutch policy financially facilitates Ums to access health care, also a serious anxiety towards health care as a pull factor exists.

Most Ums are facing serious difficulties in accessing health care, especially mental health and hospital based care.

Last years the Royal Dutch Medical Association published 'MD and alien' a paper to assist professionals. It gives if policy on Ums conflicts with the doctors' duty to provide care and their responsibility for the continuity of care. Furthermore recommendations and guidelines regarding the placement and treatment of sick immigrants in government-established reception/ detention centres are formulated.

Furthermore, both the Netherlands Society of Child Medicine as well as the Dutch Physician Child Healthcare Society (AJN) decided to improve the care young Ums.

Paediatricians created a code of



conduct that states "Ums should be treated in exactly the same as Dutch children", AJN produced a resolution that amongst other states "children that have been living over 5 years in the Netherlands should be given a resident permit".

Whether speaking up is sufficient to make unwanted patients welcome, will be further elaborated.